

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

16
1-28-03

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ^{PS}

SUBJECT: VDOT PROGRAMMING RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN URBAN SYSTEM HIGHWAY PROJECT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RAILROAD CROSSING LOCATED IN THE 700 BLOCK OF SLATERS LANE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a Virginia Department of Transportation Programming Resolution (Attachment 1) to establish an urban system highway project for the improvement of the railroad crossing located in the 700 block of Slaters Lane.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Adopt the Virginia Department of Transportation Programming Resolution to establish an urban system highway project for the improvement of the railroad crossing located in the 700 block of Slaters Lane; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

DISCUSSION: The railroad crossing, located in the 700 block of Slaters Lane, crosses Slaters Lane just west of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, near the entrance to Potomac Greens (Attachment 2). There are between two and four train crossings per day, four to five days each week. There are no devices in place to alert traffic of the location of the tracks or oncoming trains. In addition, the asphalt and wooden ties along the tracks have settled and become so worn that unnecessary noise is created. Also, pedestrian and vehicular traffic encounters a very uneven roadway surface.

The crossing is owned and maintained by Norfolk Southern Railroad. Norfolk Southern has provided a preliminary design for proposed crossing upgrades, including the installation of safety devices, including gates and cantilevered flashing lights, and the installation of a concrete base and concrete ties to smooth out the grade along the railroad tracks and to minimize the noise caused by trains moving along the tracks. Norfolk Southern will provide the construction and, at the completion of the upgrades, will continue to maintain, repair, renew and operate its railway along the crossing. The total project cost including contingency is estimated to be \$278,500.

In June 2002, the City applied for a grant through a Virginia Department of Transportation Safety Improvement Program, to assist in making the above safety improvements. In November, the City was notified that the grant had been approved. Once the VDOT programming resolution is passed, VDOT will establish an urban system highway project and include the approved project in the next update of the Virginia Transportation Development Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total cost for the project is \$278,500. \$205,650 is available from the VDOT Grant, \$22,850 is available from the \$80,500 received from the development of Old Town Greens which includes funds for railroad improvement, and \$50,000 is available from funds received from Mirant (the owner of the electrical generating facility that is the primary customer on this railroad spur). The remaining \$57,650 will be used for railroad crossing safety at other locations in this vicinity.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1. Project Programming Resolution

Attachment 2. Location Map

STAFF:

Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

Emily A. Baker, P.E., City Engineer, T&ES

Tom Culpepper, Deputy Director of Traffic, T&ES

RESOLUTION NO.

**IMPROVEMENT OF THE RAILROAD CROSSING LOCATED IN THE 700 BLOCK
OF SLATERS LANE**

PROJECT PROGRAMMING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in accordance with Virginia Department of Transportation construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by council resolution be made in order that the Department program an urban highway project in the City of Alexandria; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, requests the Virginia Department of Transportation to establish an urban system highway project for the improvement of the railroad crossing located in the 700 block of Slaters Lane. The project comprises the following remediation measures:

- Install safety devices, including gates and cantilevered flashing lights, and
- Install a concrete base and concrete ties to smooth out the grade along the railroad tracks and to minimize the noise caused by trains moving along the tracks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Alexandria hereby agrees to pay its share of the total cost for preliminary engineering, right of way and construction of this project in accordance with Section 33.1-44 of the Code of Virginia, and that, if the City of Alexandria subsequently elects to cancel this project, the City of Alexandria hereby agrees to reimburse the Virginia Department of Transportation for the total amount of the costs expended by the Department through the date the Department is notified of such cancellation.

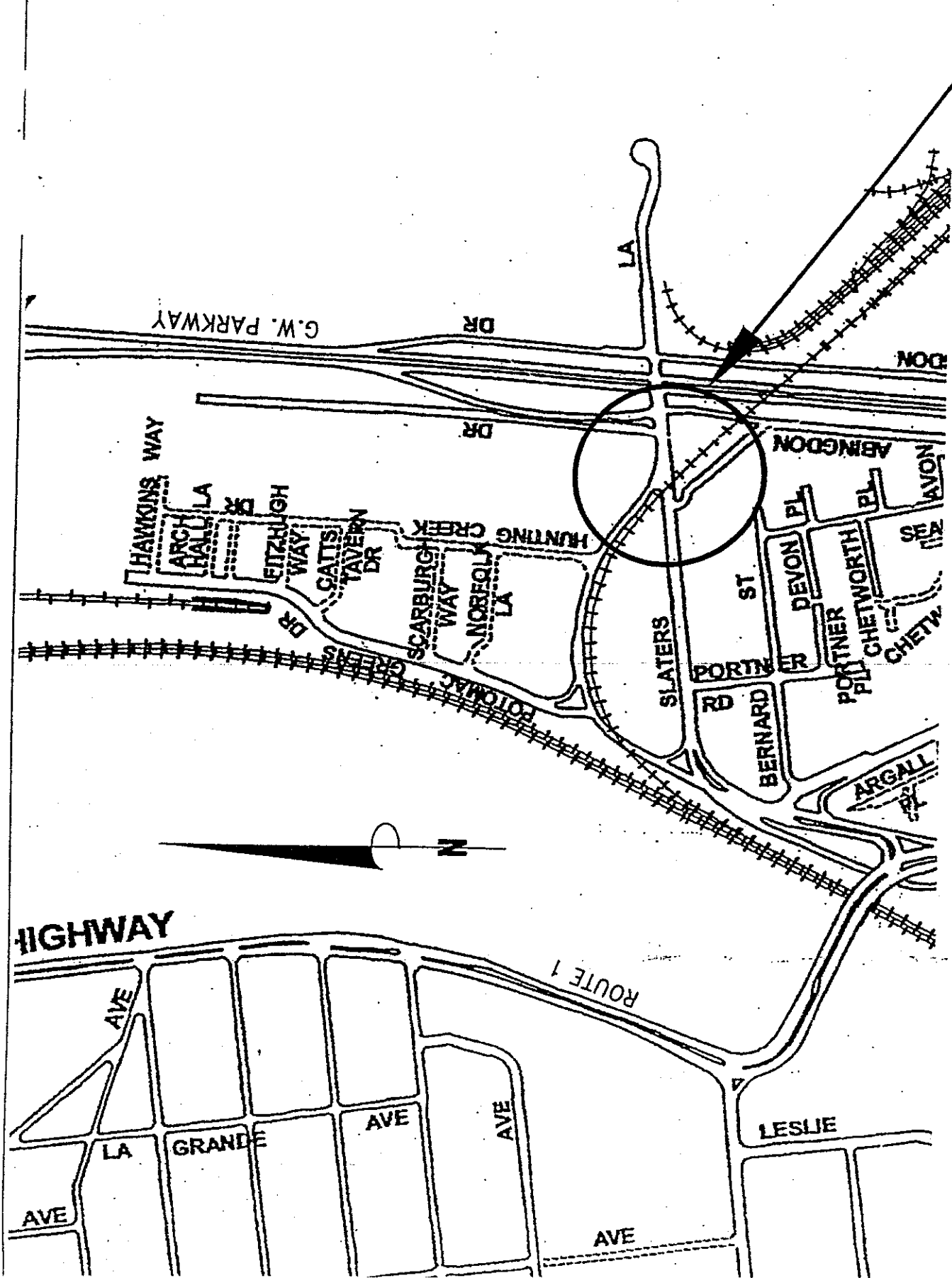
Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2003

City/Town of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST

Clerk of Council

BY _____
Mayor/Manager



NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAIL WAY CROSSING

Slaters Lane. R.R. Crossing

RESOLUTION NO. 2057

IMPROVEMENT OF THE RAILROAD CROSSING LOCATED
IN THE 700 BLOCK OF SLATERS LANE

PROJECT PROGRAMMING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in accordance with Virginia Department of Transportation construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by council resolution be made in order that the Department program an urban highway project in the City of Alexandria;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, requests the Virginia Department of Transportation to establish an urban system highway project for the improvement of the railroad crossing located in the 700 block of Slaters Lane. The project comprises the following remediation measures:

- Install safety devices, including gates and cantilevered flashing lights, and
- Install a concrete base and concrete ties to smooth out the grade along the railroad tracks and to minimize the noise caused by trains moving along the tracks.

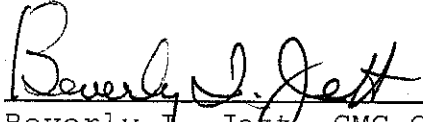
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Alexandria hereby agrees to pay its share of the total cost for preliminary engineering, right-of-way and construction of this project in accordance with Section 33.1-44 of the Code of Virginia and, that if the City of Alexandria subsequently elects to cancel this project, the City of Alexandria hereby agrees to reimburse the Virginia Department of Transportation for the total amount of the costs expended by the Department through the date the Department is notified of such cancellation.

ADOPTED: January 28, 2003


KERRY J. DONLEY

MAYOR

ATTEST:


Beverly L. Jett, CMC City Clerk